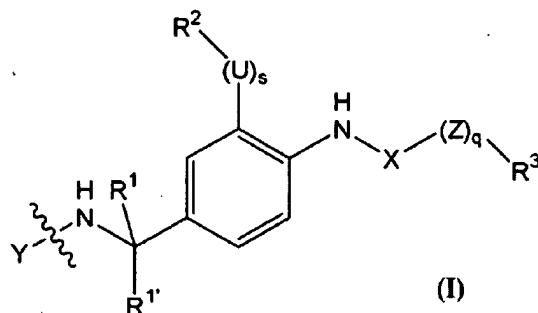


Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A compound of formula I:



wherein:

U is O, S or NR^{2'};

s is 0 or 1;

X is CO or SO₂;

Z is O, S or NR⁴, wherein **R⁴** is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl and hydroxy-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl;

q is 0 or 1;

R¹ and **R^{1'}** are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, acyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl and halo-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl;

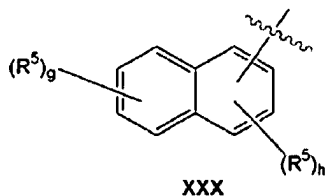
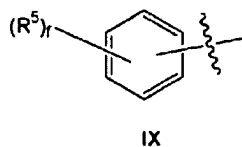
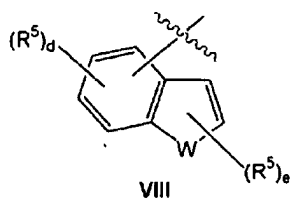
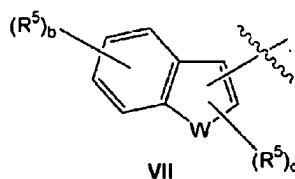
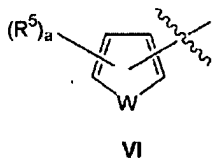
R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, Ar, Ar-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, Ar-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, acyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, halo-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl and cyano; provided that:

when **R²** is halogen or cyano, then **s** is 0; and

when s is 1 and U is $NR^{2'}$, then $R^{2'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar, Ar- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, acyl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and halo- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl; or R^2 and $R^{2'}$ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5-8 membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar, Ar- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and halo- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl; and

Y represents a group of formula VI, VII, VIII, IX or XXX:



wherein:

W is O or S;

a is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

b is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

c is 0 or 1;

d is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

e is 0, 1 or 2;

f is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

g is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

h is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

each R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of a C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, Ar, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, acyl, C_{1-6} -alk(an/en/yn)yl, halo, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, $-\text{CO}-\text{NR}^6\text{R}^6$, cyano, nitro, $-\text{NR}^7\text{R}^7$, $-\text{S}-\text{R}^8$, $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^8$ and SO_2OR^8 , or two R^5 substituents together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 5-8 membered ring which optionally contains one or two heteroatoms; wherein:

R^6 and R^6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and Ar;

R^7 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar and acyl; and

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar and $-\text{NR}^9\text{R}^9$; wherein:

R^9 and R^9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl and C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl; with the provisos that:

when R^5 is SO_2OR^8 , then R^8 is not $-\text{NR}^9\text{R}^9$; and

when R^5 is SO_2R^8 , then R^8 is not hydrogen;

or salts thereof;

with the proviso that the compound of formula I is not:

N-[4-[(4-aminophenyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;

N-[4-[[[(4-amino-2-methylphenyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;
N-[4-[[[(4-amino-3-methylphenyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;
2-[[[4-(acetylamino)phenyl]methyl]amino]-5-chloro-N-(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-benzamide;
N-[4-[[[(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;
N-[4-[[[(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthalenyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;
N-[4-[[[3-(1H-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]amino]methyl]phenyl]- acetamide;
N-[4-[[[2-(1H-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;
N-[4-[[[(4-amino-3,5-dichlorophenyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]- acetamide;
N-[4-[[[(2,4-diamino-6-quinazolinyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]- acetamide; or
N-[4-[[[(2,4-diamino-6-quinazolinyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]- acetamide.

2. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 and $R^{1'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl.
3. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 2, wherein at least one of R^1 and $R^{1'}$ is hydrogen.
4. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein s is 1.
5. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein s is 0.
6. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar and halogen, provided that when R^2 is halogen, then s is 0.
7. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 4, wherein U is $NR^{2'}$ and at least one of R^2 and $R^{2'}$ is hydrogen.
8. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 7, wherein both R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are hydrogen.
9. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is CO.

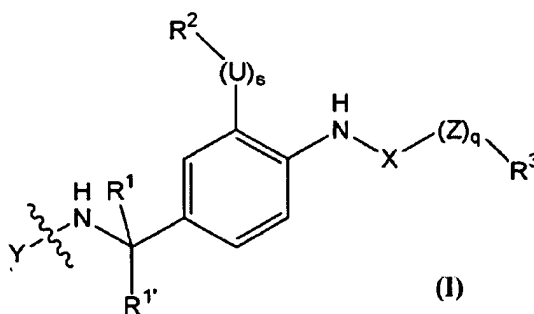
10. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein **q** is 0.
11. (Previously presented) A compound according claim 1, wherein **q** is 1.
12. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 11, wherein **Z** is oxygen.
13. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein **R³** is C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl.
14. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein **Y** represents a group of formula IX or XXX.
15. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein each **R⁵** is independently selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, Ar, cyano, halogen, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl and C₁₋₆-alk(an/en/yn)yl oxy; or two adjacent **R⁵** substituents together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 5-8 membered ring which optionally contains one or two heteroatoms.
16. (Previously presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
 - {2-Amino-4-[(4-tert-butylphenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - (2-Amino-4-phenylaminomethyl-phenyl)-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - [2-Amino-4-(naphthalen-2-ylaminomethyl)-phenyl]-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - [2-Amino-4-(p-tolylamino-methyl)-phenyl]-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - {2-Amino-4-[(4-trifluoromethylphenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - {2-Amino-4-[(4-chlorophenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - {2-Amino-4-[(3-fluorophenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - {2-Amino-4-[(4-fluorophenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - {2-Amino-4-[(2-fluorophenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - [2-Amino-4-(biphenyl-4-ylaminomethyl)-phenyl]-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - {2-Amino-4-[(2,4-difluorophenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
 - {2-Amino-4-[(4-methoxyphenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;

{2-Amino-4-[(4-cyclohexylphenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-(indan-5-ylaminomethyl)-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(4-isopropylphenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(4-butylphenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(4-chloro-3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(2,4-dichlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(2,3-dichlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(3,5-dichlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(3,4-dichlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(3-trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(3-fluoro-4-trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(3,4-difluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(4-cyanophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(4-fluoro-3-trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(3-chloro-4-methylphenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[(3-chlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
[2-Amino-4-(m-tolylaminomethyl)phenyl]carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[1-(4-chlorophenylamino)ethyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Amino-4-[1-(4-trifluoromethylphenylamino)ethyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
N-{2-Amino-4-[(3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}-2,2-dimethylpropionamide;
{4-[(4-Chlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4-[(4-Trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4-[1-(4-Chlorophenylamino)ethyl]phenyl}carbamic acid ethyl ester;

{4-[(4-Fluorophenylamino)methyl]-2-methylphenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4-[(4-Chlorophenylamino)methyl]-2-methylphenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Methyl-4-[(4-trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]phenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4-[(3,4-Difluorophenylamino)methyl]-2-methylphenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4-[(3-Fluorophenylamino)methyl]-2-methylphenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Chloro-4-[(4-chlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Chloro-4-[(4-trifluoromethyl-phenylamino)-methyl]-phenyl}-carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Chloro-4-[(4-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Chloro-4-[(3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Chloro-4-[(3,4-dichlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Chloro-4-[(4-chloro-3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4-[(4-Chlorophenylamino)methyl]-2-fluorophenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4-[(4-Chloro-3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]-2-fluorophenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{2-Fluoro-4-[(4-trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]phenyl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4'-Dimethylamino-5-[(3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]biphenyl-2-yl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4'-Dimethylamino-5-[(4-trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]biphenyl-2-yl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
ester;
{4'-Chloro-5-[(3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]biphenyl-2-yl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
{4'-Chloro-5-[(4-trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]biphenyl-2-yl} carbamic acid ethyl ester;
N-{4-[(4-chlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl} butyramide;
N-{4-[(3,4-dichlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl} butyramide;
N-{4-[(4-chloro-3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl} butyramide;
N-{4-[(4-fluoro-phenylamino)methyl]-2-methylphenyl} butyramide;

N-{4[(3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]-2-methylphenyl}butyramide;
N-{4-[(4-chlorophenylamino)methyl]-2-methylphenyl}butyramide;
N-{4-[(3,4-dichlorophenylamino)methyl]-2-methylphenyl}butyramide;
N-{4-[(4-chloro-3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]-2-methylphenyl}butyramide;
N-{2-chloro-4-[(4-trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]phenyl}butyramide;
N-{2-chloro-4-[(4-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}butyramide;
N-{2-chloro-4-[(3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}butyramide;
N-{2-chloro-4-[(4-chlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}butyramide;
N-{2-chloro-4-[(3,4-dichlorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}butyramide;
N-{2-chloro-4-[(4-chloro-3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}butyramide;
N-{2-fluoro-4-[(3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]phenyl}butyramide;
N-{4-[(4-chlorophenylamino)methyl]-2-fluorophenyl}butyramide;
N-{2-fluoro-4-[(4-trifluoromethylphenylamino)methyl]phenyl}butyramide;
N-{4-[(3,4-dichlorophenylamino)methyl]-2-fluorophenyl}butyramide; and
N-{4-[(4-chloro-3-fluorophenylamino)methyl]-2-fluorophenyl}butyramide; or
a salt thereof.

17. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound formula I:



wherein:

U is O, S or $\text{NR}^{2'}$;

s is 0 or 1;

X is CO or SO_2 ;

Z is O, S or NR^4 , wherein **R**⁴ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl;

q is 0 or 1;

R¹ and **R**^{1'} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, acyl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and halo- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl;

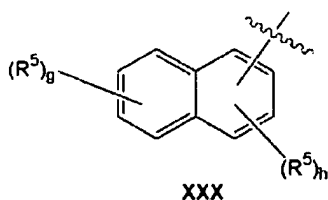
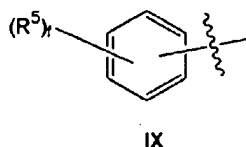
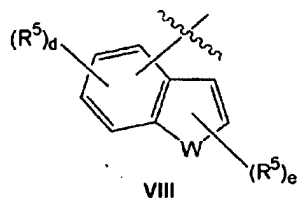
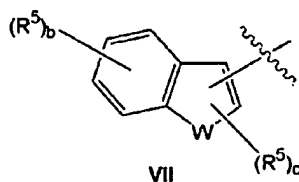
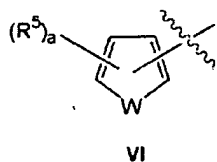
R² is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar, Ar- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, acyl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, halo- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl and cyano; provided that:

when **R**² is halogen or cyano, then **s** is 0;

when **s** is 1 and **U** is $\text{NR}^{2'}$, then **R**^{2'} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar, Ar- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, acyl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and halo- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl; or **R**² and **R**^{2'} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5-8 membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar, Ar- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and halo- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl;
and

Y represents a group of formula **VI**, **VII**, **VIII**, **IX** or **XXX**:



wherein:

W is O or S;

a is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

b is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

c is 0 or 1;

d is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

e is 0, 1 or 2;

f is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

g is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

h is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

each **R⁵** is independently selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, Ar, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, Ar-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, acyl, C₁₋₆-alk(an/en/yn)loxy, halogen, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, -CO-NR⁶R^{6'}, cyano, nitro, -NR⁷R^{7'}, -S-R⁸,

$-\text{SO}_2\text{R}^8$ and SO_2OR^8 , or two R^5 substituents together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 5-8 membered ring which optionally contains one or two heteroatoms; wherein:

R^6 and $\text{R}^{6'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and Ar;

R^7 and $\text{R}^{7'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar and acyl; and

R^8 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar and $-\text{NR}^9\text{R}^{9'}$; wherein:

R^9 and $\text{R}^{9'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl and C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl; with the provisos that:

when R^5 is SO_2OR^8 , then R^8 is not $-\text{NR}^9\text{R}^{9'}$; and

when R^5 is SO_2R^8 , then R^8 is not hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents, with the proviso that the compound of formula I is not:

2-[[[4-(acetylamino)phenyl]methyl]amino]-5-chloro-N-(5-chloro-2-pyridinyl)-benzamide;

N-[4-[[[(3,4,5-trimethoxyphenyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;

N-[4-[[[(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthalenyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;

N-[4-[[[3-(1H-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;

N-[4-[[[2-(1H-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;

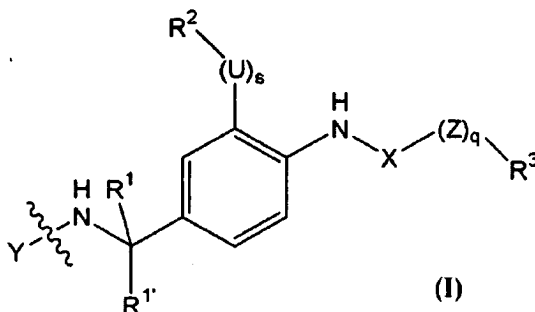
N-[4-[[[4-(1H-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)phenyl]amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;

N-[4-[[[(4-amino-3,5-dichlorophenyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide;

N-[4-[[[(2,4-diamino-6-quinazolinyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide; or

N-[4-[[[(2,4-diamino-6-quinazolinyl)amino]methyl]phenyl]-acetamide.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of increasing ion flow in a potassium channel of a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal a compound of formula I:



wherein:

U is O, S or $\text{NR}^{2'}$;

s is 0 or 1;

X is CO or SO_2 ;

Z is O, S or NR^4 , wherein R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl;

q is 0 or 1;

R^1 and $\text{R}^{1'}$ are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, acyl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl and halo- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar, Ar- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, acyl, hydroxy- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, halo- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, halo- C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl and cyano; provided that:

when R^2 is halogen or cyano, then **s** is 0;

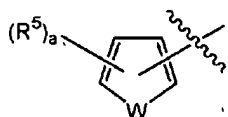
when **s** is 1 and **U** is $\text{NR}^{2'}$, then $\text{R}^{2'}$ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl, C_{3-8} -cycloalk(en)yl- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl, Ar, Ar- C_{1-6} -alk(en/yn)yl,

Ar-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, acyl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl and halo-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl; or R² and R^{2'} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5-8 membered ring which optionally contains one further heteroatom;

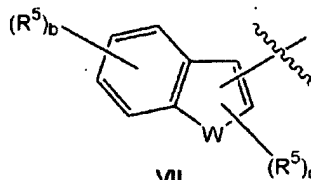
R³ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, Ar, Ar-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, Ar-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, hydroxy-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, hydroxy-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl and halo-C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl;

and

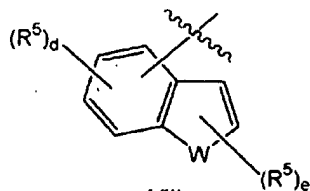
Y represents a group of formula VI, VII, VIII, IX or XXX:



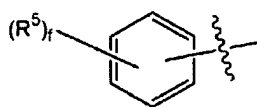
VI



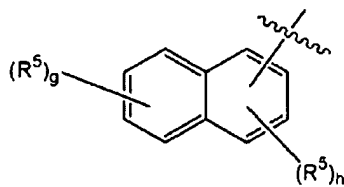
VII



VIII



IX



XXX

wherein:

W is O or S;

a is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

b is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

c is 0 or 1;

d is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

e is 0, 1 or 2;

f is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

g is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

h is 0, 1, 2 or 3; and

each **R⁵** is independently selected from the group consisting of a C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, Ar, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, Ar-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, acyl, C₁₋₆-alk(an/en/yn)yl, halogen, halo-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, -CO-NR⁶R^{6'}, cyano, nitro, -NR⁷R^{7'}, -S-R⁸, -SO₂R⁸ and SO₂OR⁸; or two **R⁵** substituents together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 5-8 membered ring which optionally contains one or two heteroatoms; wherein:

R⁶ and **R^{6'}** are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl and Ar;

R⁷ and **R^{7'}** are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, Ar and acyl; and

R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, Ar and -NR⁹R^{9'}; wherein **R⁹** and **R^{9'}** are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl, C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl and C₃₋₈-cycloalk(en)yl-C₁₋₆-alk(en/yn)yl; with the provisos that:

when **R⁵** is SO₂OR⁸, then **R⁸** is not -NR⁹R^{9'}; and

when **R⁵** is SO₂R⁸, then **R⁸** is not hydrogen; or

salts thereof.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein administration of said compound is for the prevention, treatment or inhibition of a disorder or condition being responsive to an increased ion flow in a potassium channel.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the disorder or condition is a seizure disorder.
21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the disorder or condition is selected from the group consisting of neuropathic and migraine pain disorders.
22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the disorder or condition is an anxiety disorder.
23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the disorder or condition is a neurodegenerative disorder.
24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the disorder or condition is a neuronal hyperexcitation state.
25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the mammal is a human.
26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 19, wherein the disorder or condition is a disorder or condition of the central nervous system.
27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the seizure disorder is selected from the group consisting of convulsions, epilepsy and status epileptus.
28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 21, wherein the neuropathic or migraine pain disorder is selected from the group consisting of allodynia, hyperalgesic pain, phantom pain, neuropathic pain related to diabetic neuropathy and neuropathic pain related to migraine.
29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 22, wherein the anxiety disorder is selected from the group consisting of anxiety, generalized anxiety disorder, panic anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, social phobia, performance anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, acute stress reaction, adjustment disorders, hypochondriacal disorders, separation anxiety disorder, agoraphobia, specific phobias, anxiety disorder due to general medical condition and substance-induced anxiety disorder.
30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 23, wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's chorea, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, AIDS-induced encephalopathy, a non-AIDS-induced encephalopathy, Creutzfeld-Jakob disease, Parkinson's disease, and a trauma-induced neurodegeneration.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 24, wherein the neuronal hyperexcitation state is due to medicament withdrawal or intoxication.